

**Summary of  
Meeting of the Taunton Bay Advisory Group  
6 PM Tuesday June 16, 2009  
Sullivan Town Hall  
Facilitated by Sherman Hoyt**

Advisors present: Antonio Blasi, Frank Dorsey, Sherman Hoyt, Lee Hudson  
Steve Perrin, and John Sowles

Public members: Tim Doughty, James Card, Jeremy Card, and Jeremy Card Jr.

Mission Statement - Steve expressed a strong need for a concrete mission statement. The group agreed that we need to resolve this long standing unfinished business. Lee pointed out that the State has its mission but that this is the Advisory Group's mission statement. Steve sees the need for a precise and clear statement to be available to interested parties. This might help overcome any residual mistrust, especially by fishers, regarding the motives of this group. Doug suggested that those most interested could come early to next meeting and complete the statement. Everyone present agreed that we need to add a phrase about implementing, not just creating a plan. Shep suggested that if there is any conflicting language, we simply drop it until such time we can agree. Frank noted that we seem to be mixing policies with procedures. The mission statement should focus on policy.

Action Item – Those interested will meet at 5:30 immediately before the next meeting. Sherm will circulate the last mission statement to group.

Water quality monitoring - John reported on setting up Antonio, Frank and Shep with Secchi discs and nutrient bottles. They will be sampling about every two weeks. He has a contract with the University of Maryland lab to run the samples. That lab was selected because it is also running samples for the USEPA nutrient criteria development project.

Questions arose regarding the Coldwater Center for Aquaculture Research (CCAR). John briefly discussed the monitoring required of that facility and agreed to report back to the group on status and results. John also agreed to send the internet link to DEP data. (Note: see <[http://www.maine.gov/dep/gis/datamaps/index.htm#Google\\_Earth\\_Maps](http://www.maine.gov/dep/gis/datamaps/index.htm#Google_Earth_Maps)>. Both the permit and the monthly discharge monitoring results are reported through this link.)

Data and information matrix – Frank continues to solicit input into his (our) matrix that describes data and data sources on Taunton Bay. John and Steve will send water quality information separately to Frank. John needs to chase down work done by the U. Me at Orono. Frank would like to complete this water quality sheet so that we can move to next matrix

Sherm reported that he had made a presentation to the Sea Urchin Zone Council (SUZC) describing the efforts in Taunton Bay and especially how the Taunton Bay quota system

has worked. The SUZC is looking at doing some form of special management in its southern zone where urchin populations are depressed and the season is only 10 day and only about 30 harvesters. Lee asked Sherm to be sure to mention the real time data reporting system that is used here in Taunton Bay. Sherm would also like to give a presentation to the scallop council. Lee suggested that it was too bad we have not assembled a list of all the issues so we can share them with others, especially harvesters. Fishermen did not like this management system although some have been willing to participate. Now we all have the experience and can share it with others.

Other Business – Steve noted that Brian Beal has conducted two clam growth studies in the bay but has not worked up the data. Steve said that if we invite him, according to Brian, it would be a good reason to work the data up and present it to us. He also did two benthic invertebrate studies in Hog bay. Steve will invite Brian for the July 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Frank reported that Wendy Norden was coming this week with students to plant her collector plates in and out of eelgrass Butler Point north. Anecdotaly, there appears to be lots of eelgrass where we have not seen it before including west of Hatch Point. Wendy has shifted her focus from restoration to baseline assessment.

Doug described the summer lecture series of the Taunton Bay Education Center which begins the end of June. The focus of the series is on family, the importance of kids getting out doors. The schedule is on the Friends of Taunton Bay web site.

John informed the group that he will be leaving State government as soon as he can put all his projects in order for DMR. He expected it would take the summer to do so but that he was planning to leave by September. He offered his thoughts on how this project might continue. Four initial options include:

- Terminate special management– not preferred
- Continue at same level of effort - unlikely
- Share/rotate leadership among state agencies (e.g. IFW, DOC, DEP, DMR, SPO)
- Change fishery portion of regulations to be less fine scale.

John asked the fishermen in the audience to share their views of this management plan and process. Jeremy said what they don't like is being told when and where they can and can not go. He did not hate it all, however, like limiting the number of fishermen. Weather and price kept the urchins abundant. Tim thought that this is unnecessary since Taunton Bay has always been a self protected system, especially by its difficult access.

Steve wants to have better communication between the harvesters, advisors and the public. John intends to interview fishermen as he writes his analysis of the experiment. Lee thinks this project needs to have one overseeing agency, if not DMR, then the Coastal Program as the umbrella to. Doug recommended sending minutes to harvesters from now on.

Meeting adjourned with next meeting in Sullivan on July 21<sup>st</sup>.